

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 683

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Tommy Grider upon the occasion of  
is induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse  
National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals in the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Mr. Tommy Grider, who has served the Walking Horse industry with distinction in numerous capacities for many years; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Grider grew up on the family farm in Columbia, Kentucky, where he learned hard work and farm operations assisting his parents and two older brothers, Ronnie and Donnie, in completing the daily farm chores; while in school, Tommy actively participated in the Future Farmers of America and 4-H, serving as President of both organizations; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Adair County High School, he earned his associate's degree from Lindsey Wilson College, a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Kentucky University, and continued his education in post graduate studies at Eastern Kentucky University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grider grew up attending the Celebration as the annual family vacation and 2008 will mark his fifty-sixth attendance of the Celebration; his family still visits the event every year; and

WHEREAS, after perfecting his riding skills on the family goat, Ole' Tom, Tommy Grider's showing career began at an early age atop a five-gaited pony named, Little Charlie, and he earned his first ribbon as an exhibitor at the Celebration by placing seventh in a large walking pony class with Little Mysteries Go Girl; he marks this moment as one of the highlights of his early showing career, along with having the opportunity to meet and learn from such noted horsemen as Sam Pascal, Vic Thompson, Elmore Brock, Harce Young, Donald Pascal, Hugh Bailey, Owsley and Carl Young, Riley Hems, and several others; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Walking Horses are in the Grider family's blood; Mr. Grider's father, O.E. Grider, possessed a sharp eye for colt selection, and his mother, Margaret Grider, was active in the colt raising business; and

WHEREAS, in his own Walking Horse exhibition career, Tommy Grider has won two world championships abroad My Promises Promises and Pusher's Tie Breaker; and

WHEREAS, it is as an owner and breeder that Mr. Grider has achieved the pinnacle of success; he has shown a number of World Grand Champions, including The Pusher, Delight Of Pride, Pride's Juilee Encore, Pride's Night Prowler, The Sky Command, Generator's Flirtin, Roll the Gold, Jazz Master, and a multitude of World Champions and Reserve World Champions; and

WHEREAS, a man of diverse talents, Mr. Grider has been and continues to be an invaluable asset to the Walking Horse industry in many different roles, including meritorious service of two terms on the executive board of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) and former President and co-owner of Wiser Farm, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, his many significant contributions to the Walking Horse industry have been recognized through his receipt of numerous Owner of Sire of the Year and Divisional Horse of the Year awards; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Grider has also enjoyed a laudable career as the founder, President, and principal real estate broker of Grider Properties, Inc., which is one of the largest property development and management companies in south central Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, his business acumen has been noted with recognition as an outstanding business and professional leader a number of times by the Chamber of Commerce; he is also a distinguished member of the Presidents Society of Lindsey Wilson College and has rendered astute service as a board director of the Bank of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, despite his busy schedule, Mr. Grider still finds time to faithfully attend Columbia Christian Church as an active and devout member; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Tommy Grider is most grateful for the love and support he receives from his wife, Marsh Ann Caldwell, and their two children, Julie and Tood Grider; he is also the proud grandfather of Paige Grider; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Mr. Tommy Grider has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and commend Mr. Tommy Grider on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.